

Innovative Outstanding Weatherization Assistance News

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From all of us in the
Weatherization Bureau
in Des Moines

Jim, Gwen, Mark, Marcia,
Chris, Mike and Rosemary

Welcome

Welcome to the April 2008 edition of the IOWAN

As always, feel free to contribute articles, tips, tricks, and extreme photos to be included in upcoming issues. Afterall, without you, there wouldn't be a newsletter. Send your ideas to Christine.Taylor@iowa.gov . Your contributions will be published in a future issue.

Pollution Occurrence Insurance—

Remember to review your Pollution Occurrence Insurance expiration date. Once updated coverage has been obtained, be sure to send the coverage sheet to Christine.Taylor@iowa.gov so her records can be updated.

Website—If you notice something that is outdated while perusing the Weatherization website, please let Chris know so she can make corrections. Her number is 515-281-4565 and her email is Christine.Taylor@iowa.gov .

Statistics

<u>Item</u>	<u>*QTRLY</u>	<u>**YTD</u>
Houses worked on	568	1772
Completions	523	1625
Closed - Incomplete	43	147
Owner-occupied	482	1531
Rentals	84	241
Elderly-occupied	179	578
Disabled-occupied	254	792
Young child	94	320
Furnace replacements	7,892	8,440
Refrigerator replacements	189	564
Freezer replacements	79	237
Average cost per home	\$6,725	\$6,391

Totals for all agencies combined

*QTRLY (November 2007—February 2008)

** YTD (April 2007—February 2008)

Disaster Relief Activities

When a Home Can be Reweatherized Due to a Disaster

'Tis the season for rain, rain and more rain, which is then followed by flooding. In years past, there have been questions about when and if a home damaged by a disaster can be reweatherized. Fortunately, we have guidelines set forth in Section 5.65 of the *Policy and Procedures* manual (and outlined below) to help us determine what can be done to help our clients.

Previously weatherized low-income homes damaged by a disaster may be reweatherized if the damage is not covered by insurance. A home damaged by a disaster may be reweatherized regardless of the date the home was originally weatherized. However, program funds may only be used to cover weatherization costs not covered by homeowners and/or flood insurance and FEMA funds. A Presidential or Gubernatorial Order does not have to be made in order to reweatherize a dwelling damaged by a disaster. However, the reweatherization of a dwelling damaged by a disaster should be delayed for a reasonable length of time, if possible, to see if either a Presidential or Gubernatorial Order will be made which could result in other (e.g. FEMA funds) sources of funds that will pay for the damage.

Under certain circumstances, DOE will allow the use of weatherization-funded personnel and equipment to be used for disaster relief activities that are "non-traditional" weatherization activities. Examples of non-traditional weatherization disaster relief activities where weatherization-funded personnel or equipment could be used would be clean-up activities in eligible homes or in public areas that benefit low-income persons and delivery of emergency supplies (for flood or tornado disasters) and the evacuation of residents and filling sandbags (for flood disasters). For these non-traditional activities to be allowed, a Presidential or Gubernatorial Order must be made declaring either a federal or state emergency in the area and the DCAA and DOE must approve the disaster relief activities.

Once a Presidential or Gubernatorial Order has been made in a county or counties within an agency's service area, an agency wishing to use weatherization-funded personnel and/or equipment for disaster relief activities that are "non-traditional" weatherization activities, must request approval from the Bureau of Weatherization.

Should you have any questions about these guidelines, be sure to contact the DCAA office for clarification.

Computer Program Tips

We all know there are a slew of shortcuts out there for every computer program imaginable. Unfortunately, we either don't know about the shortcuts or have never been told what those time-saving tricks are. To help you out, we are listing some of those shortcuts below.

These are timeless and work in all Microsoft programs.

- F12 (Save As)
- Ctrl + S (Save)
- Ctrl + X (Cut)
- Ctrl + C (Copy)
- Ctrl + V (Paste)
- Ctrl + Z (Undo)
- Ctrl + Y (Redo)
- Ctrl + A (Select All)

- Shift + Mouse Click

If you have a list of items you would like highlighted, click on the first item. Then go to the last item, hold the shift key down and click that item. All items in between the first and last items, including the first and last items, will be highlighted.

- Ctrl + Mouse Click

If you have items you would like highlighted but you don't want an entire list of items highlighted, simply hold the Ctrl key down and click your mouse on the various items you would like highlighted.

Tentative 2008 Program Monitoring Schedule

April	Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.
May	North Iowa Community Action Organization
June	South Central Iowa Community Action Program Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc.

News

New Energy Star Criteria for Washing Machines and CFLs—DOE recently announced that more stringent requirements are being put in place for all washing machines under the Energy Star label. By July 1, 2009, all qualifying Energy Star washing machines will have to be at least 43% more efficient than the current federal energy efficiency standards and have a maximum water factor (WF) of 7.5; that is, each load will use 7.5 gallons of water per cubic foot of capacity. By January 1, 2011, all Energy Star washing machines will be 59% more efficient than mandated energy standards and will have a maximum WF of 6.0. The 2011 criteria are expected to save consumers \$120 million on annual utility bills while saving 11.2 billion gallons of water and 659 million kilowatt hours of electricity. Energy Star is a joint program of DOE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

DOE also announced more stringent Energy Star requirements for compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs.) As of November 2008, CFLs must be tested by an independent third party, and as of December 2, 2008, all Energy Star CFLs will be required to contain less than 5 milligrams of mercury per bulb and to meet more stringent lamp color requirements. CFLs with reflectors, such as spotlights, will have to meet new high-heat testing requirements. The criteria will also be expanded to include CFLs with a smaller screw-in base, called a "candelabra" base. See the [DOE press release](#) and

the Energy Star Web pages on the [clothes washer](#) and [CFL](#) revisions.

— *EERE Network News March 12, 2008 Edition*
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

DOE Announces New Energy Star Criteria for Water Heaters—DOE established new Energy Star criteria for water heaters last week, setting the wheels in motion for the first water heaters to carry the Energy Star label next year. The new criteria apply to solar water heaters, advanced drop-in integrated heat pump water heaters, and three gas-fired designs: high-performance storage tank, condensing, and whole-home tankless water heaters. The criteria will be implemented across two years, with the first phase being initiated on January 1, 2009. The second phase, introducing stronger standards, will take effect on September 1, 2010. According to DOE projections, these new water heater criteria could, after five years of being implemented, save about \$780 million in utility costs, avoid 4.2 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions, and achieve cumulative energy savings of more than 3.9 billion kilowatt-hours and 270 million therms of natural gas. For more information about the specific requirements for each type of water heater, see the [DOE press release](#).

— *EERE Network News April 9, 2008 Edition*
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Service Recognition

New Hire—Dan Gansen has recently been hired as a full-time Evaluator/Inspector for Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. in Emmetsburg, Iowa.

15 Years—Ed Hahn, a Crew Chief for the Weatherization Program, has achieved 15 years of service to the clients of Community Action of Eastern Iowa.



Community Service—Denny Krause, Weatherization Coordinator with Community Action Agency of Siouxland, is pictured below with U.S. Congressman Steve King. Denny, pictured on the right, is receiving a purple heart because of wounds he received in the Vietnam War. He also received the following medals on the same day: Navy Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Fleet Marine Force Ribbon and Form DD 215 Correction to Military Record.



Questions and Answers

Question: How often do we need to obtain new vendor agreements with appliance vendors? What if my vendor will not sign a 12-month agreement?

Answer: Agreements may be signed on whatever schedule you choose. Some agencies obtain new agreements every 3 months, some obtain them every 6 months, and other agencies obtain them every 12 months. Set your agreements for whichever time frame works for you and your vendor/s. As a side note, if you have more than one vendor, you can have them on different cycles if needed. For instance, if vendor #1 is willing to agree to hold prices for a 12-month period, you can have that vendor sign a 12-month agreement. However, if vendor #2 is only willing to agree to hold pricing for 3 months, have that vendor sign a 3-month agreement. No matter which length of agreements you choose, simply ensure they do not expire to remain compliant with the Weatherization Programs' rules and regulations.

Question: Why is the state so insistent that we take pictures of mold/moisture problems, bad furnaces, existing damage to a home, etc.?

Answer: We are so insistent about taking pictures not only because it protects the client, but also because it could potentially protect the agency should a dispute be taken to court. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words. Remember, however, that pictures should never be taken of a clients' personal belongings unless it has something to do with the issue at hand.

Question: A client called about a refrigerator that we installed 1-1/2 years ago and said that it is no longer working. After inspecting the unit, we found that it needs to be replaced and is no longer covered under the manufacturers' warranty. Can we replace the unit and charge it to the program? What about the loss of perishable food?

Answer: Based on Program Notice 08-01 that you recently received, if a refrigeration appliance installed by the agency does not work well and is no longer covered by the warranty, the appliance may be replaced by the agency within 5 years of the date it was installed. The program, however, will not cover the loss of perishable food.

"I am really pleased with the weatherization program. The service I received was superior. I received a new furnace and ended up with a new power-vent water heater and insulation work as well. Every job they did has surpassed my expectations. I will always be thankful for the work the weatherization program has done for my family. Without their help, I don't know how I could've made it possible to get all this done. Thanks so much!"

— Community Action of Southeast Iowa Client

Tentative 2008 Fiscal Monitoring Schedule

April	MATURA Action Corporation West Central Community Action Operation: New View
May	New Opportunities, Inc. Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc.
June	Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. Community Action Agency of Siouxland

Extreme Photos



Damage caused by a four-legged friend.



Damaged water heater vent pipe in an attic.



There is a note on this upright freezer... "Kick bottom of door to seal it closed!!!" Needless to say, it didn't seal.

Hmmmm.....Interesting concept.....



Disconnected heating duct in an attic.

Upcoming Events

April 2008

- 1—3 **Basic Evaluator** training will be held at HACAP, 1515 Hawkeye Drive, Hiawatha, Iowa. For more information, contact Marcia Thompson at the Weatherization Bureau via email at Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov .
- 7—11 **ACI Home Performance Conference 2008** to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the Hilton Pittsburgh. For more information, visit www.affordablecomfort.org .
- 15—16 **NEAT/NEATShell** training will be hosted by HACAP and held in Fairfax, Iowa. For more information, contact Marcia Thompson at the Weatherization Bureau via email at Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov .
- 23 **IWAC Meeting** to be held at Polk County, 5885 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50313. Meeting time is from 9:00am-12:00pm. For more information, contact Jim Perry at Jim@neicac.org .
- 29—30 **Basic Furnace** training will be held at MICA, 1001 S. 18th Avenue, Marshalltown, Iowa. For more information, contact Marcia Thompson at the Weatherization Bureau via email at Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov .
- 29—30 **Lead Safe Work Practices and Slate Safe Work Practices** will be held at Polk County Dev. Services Division, 5885 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa. For more information, contact Marcia Thompson at the Weatherization Bureau via email at Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov .

May is National Community Action Month

May 2008

- 6—7 **Combustion Health & Safety** training will be held at MICA, 1001 S. 18th Avenue, Marshalltown, Iowa. For more information, contact Marcia Thompson at the Weatherization Bureau via email at Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov .
- 20—21 **Advanced Furnace** training will be held at MICA, 1001 S. 18th Avenue, Marshalltown, Iowa. For more information, contact Marcia Thompson at the Weatherization Bureau via email at Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov .

June 2008

- 3—4 **Advanced Blower Door/Zonal Pressure Diagnostics (Garage Leakage)** training will be held at New Opportunities, 603 West 8th St., Carroll, Iowa. For more information, contact Marcia Thompson at the Weatherization Bureau via email at Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov .
- 23—25 **2008 Iowa Community Action Association Annual Conference** will be held at the Embassy Suites in Des Moines, Iowa. For more information, contact the ICAA office at 515-283-4569 or visit www.iowacommunityaction.com .

View the 2008 Training Schedule on the website under
Upcoming Events/Training...

www.Weatherization.Iowa.Gov



Speed Bumps

- The refrigerator/freezer meter readings need to be reported in WAMS whether or not an appliance is replaced.
- Venting on water heaters and furnaces must meet the code requirements in the National Fuel Gas Code.
- When dense-packing floored attics, the ends of the floored runs need to be stuffed with insulation in order for the insulation to be dense-packed (Section 5014 p.7 of the *Work Standards*).
- All of the agencies inspected this quarter had some minor problems with the wall insulation not being complete, mostly over windows and doors.
- Applied weatherstripping needs to be caulked and be neat in appearance (Section 4010 p. 4 of the *Work Standards*).
- Exhaust fans need a termination made for that purpose. Roof, gable, or soffit vents are not acceptable to use for the exhaust fan termination (Section 2090 p.109 of the *Work Standards*). Insulation applied to the vent ducts needs to go all away around the ducts.
- The ceiling above suspended ceilings must be intact and air-tight (Section 4010 p. 2 of the *Work Standards*).
- When there are openings in the furnace cabinet that are used as part of the combustion air intake, grommets need to be used that are made for that purpose rather than metallic tape.
- The condensate line for the furnace should not go outside or terminate outside (Section 2020 p. 20 of the *Work Standards*).

Please feel free to copy and distribute.

Iowa Bureau of Weatherization

Department of Human Rights
Community Action Agency
Lucas State Office Building, 2nd Floor
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

We're on the Web!!!
www.weatherization.iowa.gov

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